



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
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AGC(E) 04023
March 23, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY INVITEES

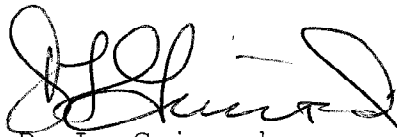
Subj: 2004 NAVY LEAGUE SEA-AIR-SPACE EXPOSITION

The Navy League will hold its annual Sea-Air-Space Exposition (Exposition) on April 6-8, 2004, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. The Exposition will include exhibits by vendors, professional seminars, daily luncheons with speakers, and a reception and banquet. A number of Department of Navy personnel have been invited to attend the reception and banquet, and luncheons.

There is no charge for civilian employees of U.S. Government agencies and members of the Armed Forces to attend the exhibits and seminars. Opportunities and benefits available to a class consisting of all Government employees or all uniformed personnel are not included in the definition of gift (5 C.F.R. 2635.203(b)(4)). Department of the Navy employees may therefore accept free attendance at the seminars and exhibits.

Approximately 1000 people are expected to attend the reception, banquet and related entertainment, at a fair market value of \$50.00. Members of the Navy League include members of business and industry and the local community. These events qualify as a widely attended gathering under 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2). In addition, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(3)(ii), there is a reasonable basis for supervisors to find that there is an agency interest in having Department of Navy personnel attend these events. Therefore, supervisors who consider participation by one or more of their employees to be in furtherance of an agency interest may permit personnel whose duties do not substantially affect the Navy League to accept free attendance from the Navy League, including food, refreshments and entertainment furnished to all attendees as an integral part of the event. This determination does not apply to other events, e.g., hospitality rooms, that are not an integral part of the event. Department of Navy personnel may not accept travel expenses or lodgings pursuant to this determination.

DON employees whose duties may substantially affect the Navy League should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. L. Grimord', with a stylized flourish at the end.

D. L. Grimord

Assistant General Counsel (Ethics)